

specimens, and R.A. Austin informs me that on the following day, 3.x.1990, one came into the kitchen of Mrs J. Wells in Saint Martin, Guernsey, about two miles south-west of Saint Peter Port.

During the previous day or two the islands had been having mild, southerly winds but I am not aware of any other migrant species of note being found.

The only other Channel Islands' records of *U. pulchella* are of two in Guernsey in 1889 and one in Jersey in 1968.— R. LONG, Ozarda, Saint John, Jersey, Channel Islands JE3 4FP.

### ***Eriogaster lanestris* Linn., the Small Eggar (Lep.: Lasiocampidae) in south Norfolk (v.c.27)**

Upon returning from a walk recently (late June 1991) my wife commented on having seen several webs of caterpillars in a length of Norfolk hedge, beside the main A143 Diss to Great Yarmouth road. Having been aware that *Eriogaster lanestris* had been reported in this part of Norfolk — three webs of caterpillars in Hargham Road, Attleborough in June 1990 (Paul Cardy pers. comm.); a single adult to light at Rocklands, near Attleborough, in the spring this year (Jane Lee pers. comm.) and four webs reported from New Buckenham Common on 22nd June 1991 (Steve Ward pers. comm.) — I was anticipating a further site for the return of this species to Norfolk.

As I approached the stretch of road in Billingford, near Diss, I could see several webs in the hedge whilst I was driving along. These were just the large nests as I discovered when I walked the length of this particular piece of hedge, between a pond and a road junction. In the distance of a quarter of a mile I counted 73 webs, of which four were on elm, two on blackthorn and the remainder of hawthorn. These were all on the south facing road side of the hedge to the north of the road. I walked back to my car, counting webs along the north facing side of the hedge to the south of the road and recorded another eleven, with nine on hawthorn, one on elm and one on a small scrubby spindle bush which was almost totally defoliated. Because of tall crops, and recent heavy rain, I did not look on the field side of either of these two roadside hedges, but would assume that there were further webs to be found.

I did walk a further 250 yards northwards from the road junction at the eastern end of the first hedge surveyed and counted another eleven webs in the east facing hedge alongside this road — all these on hawthorn. On the opposite west facing hedge there were only four webs to be seen — one on hawthorn and three on elm. After 200 yards from the corner there were no more webs to be found.

The lengths of hedge where *Eriogaster lanestris* larval webs were so prolific are all well maintained, and regularly cut mechanically, with only the current year's growth standing out from the dense body of the shrubs. Other more straggly, and infrequently cut, hawthorn bushes and the short,

isolated stretches of similarly maintained hedgerow, within the immediate vicinity had no sign of the webs.

The majority of the webs were moderately small, but there was a proportion of much larger, really obvious, webs scattered throughout the whole length of the infestation. These were very obvious, even when driving past, particularly when I was specifically looking for them. The larvae were in all growth stages from second instar to fully mature, with several seen to be moving away from their communal feeding and living grounds.

I carried out a fairly comprehensive, but not intensive, survey of several miles of apparently suitable hedgerow within a three mile radius of the webs discovered at Billingford and saw no evidence of the larger webs that were so noticeable initially.

It seems most remarkable that along some 700 yards of roadside hedgerow there are 99 webs of *Eriogaster lanestris* larvae to be found and yet no others, apparently, anywhere in the immediate vicinity. This species was recorded by Barrett (1901) as "Plentiful in some seasons, its larvae forming large silken nests on the hawthorn hedges" but has not been in evidence in recent records. Skinner (1984) blames its serious decline in recent years on the wholesale destruction and indiscriminate trimming of hedgerows, combined with pollution from motor vehicles and the drift from agricultural pesticides.

From the very limited evidence from these few observations it seems possible that *Eriogaster lanestris* is making a resurgence at the moment and, certainly at Billingford, it is thriving on well-trimmed hedges, beside a major road, in an area of intensive arable agriculture so perhaps its decline could be attributed to other causes, or it is adapting to late 20th century conditions. The use of both elm and spindle as larval foodplants may also indicate adaptability, as neither are mentioned in Allan (1949) or Scorer (1913).

**References.** Allan, P.B.M., 1949. *Larval Foodplants*. Watkins and Doncaster. London. Barrett, C.G., 1901. Lepidoptera. In, *Victoria History of the Counties of England*, Norfolk, 1. ed. H.A. Doubleday, 142, Archibald Constable, Westminster. Skinner, B. 1984. *Colour Identification Guide to the Moths of the British Isles*. Viking. Middlesex. Scorer, A.G., 1913. *The Entomologist's Log-book*. George Routledge. London.  
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***Scotopteryx peribolata* (Hb.), the Spanish Carpet (Lep.: Geometridae) at Studland, Dorset.**

On 12th September 1990, whilst running an m.v. trap on Shell Beach, Studland, Dorset, I recorded a single specimen of *Scotopteryx peribolata* (Hb.). The specimen, a male, was somewhat worn and I am grateful to Brian Baker and Norman Hall for confirming its identity.

According to Bernard Skinner (*Colour Identification Guide to the Moths*